



Embassy of the United States of America

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U.S. Embassy Donates 20 Vehicles Valued at Over \$500,000 to Bolivian Counternarcotics Programs

Expressing a firm commitment to continue assisting Bolivia, the U.S. Embassy, through its Narcotics Affairs Section (NAS), delivered today 20 pick-up trucks valued at \$450,000 in support of Bolivia's counter narcotics program.

U.S. Ambassador Philip Goldberg reiterated that this donation signals that U.S. support to Bolivia remains unchanged and that as a partner of the Bolivian Government, it continues to make all the necessary efforts to combat narcotics trafficking.

Of the 20 vehicles delivered to Santa Cruz, six will be handed over to the Bolivian Police's Special Counternarcotics Force (FELCN), four to the Special Coca Leaf Control Group (GECC), one to the Special Operations Research Center (GIOE), one to the Chemical Research Group (GISUQ), four to the Rural Patrolling Mobile Unit (UMOPAR), two to the Prosecutor's Office, one to the Drug Detection Canine Center, and one to counternarcotics logistical support programs.

These Japanese pick-up trucks are part of a larger donation totaling 90 vehicles. Two months ago 40 vehicles were handed over in La Paz. Other vehicles will be handed over for counternarcotics programs in Cochabamba, Beni, Oruro, Chuquisaca, and Tarija. The cost of the vehicles donated by the U.S. Government is estimated at over \$2,000,000.

The NAS-funded support goes far beyond donating vehicles. It also includes providing maintenance to hundreds of vehicles used in counternarcotics programs and buying spare parts and accessories for damaged vehicles.

During the past fiscal year, from October 2006 to September 2007, the U.S. Embassy's Narcotics Affairs Section disbursed \$1,800,000 alone to purchase fuel for all the vehicles used by Bolivian counternarcotics organizations working in urban and rural areas. In the past 20 years, the NAS has donated over 1,400 vehicles to Bolivian Government programs.